

Kentucky Department of Corrections Staff and Offender Newsletter

JANUARY 2016

THE TOOL BOX

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

‘There’s no book on this’

Eleven Calloway jail inmates graduate Inside Out Dad class

Article provided by Murray Ledger & Times Staff Writer:
JOHN WRIGHT

Not many people think of life-changing events happening inside a jail.

For 11 inmates of the Calloway County Detention Center in Murray, though, Tuesday marked graduation day for something aimed at doing just that. It marked the end of a 12-week journey through something called the Inside Out Dad program, designed to not only arm these men with better parenting skills they can use once they have served their sentences, but also with an ability to handle other relationships better than before they became inmates.

“This is a great day here at the Calloway County jail,” said Calloway County Jailer Ken Claud, who has been in that office about a year and a half now. “When I campaigned for the office, one thing I felt we needed was to improve inmate programs and this is one of those we decided to try. It varies (as far as the sentences of the inmates in the first class). We determined who was a candidate for this class by looking into their past, seeing what their behavior patterns were, along with how many kids they have, if they have kids, along with how long they’ve been here.

“Some may have another couple of years left, others may be getting out as early as next week.”

Each inmate that participated spoke during Tuesday’s ceremony and something nearly all of them indicated was the effectiveness the course had because two women were leading it, providing a much different perspective for the men. The women - deputy jailers Dee Ann Benke and Julie Robertson - said they have been blessed to have had this opportunity.

“What we are trying to do is get you to open up about what you’ve been through and what you’re thinking, and I’ve got to admit, it’s been nice to watch you open up,” Benke said as she addressed her students, each of whom received a certificate and gift bag for their efforts. “And it’s really nice to see that what we are doing is working.”

Both Benke and Robertson remarked how they saw the men change as the class progressed. Where several of the men had been hesitant to openly participate in discussions, they became much more active, particularly after the first half of classes.



The inaugural graduating class of the Inside Out Dad program at the Calloway County Detention Center is shown Tuesday afternoon, along with Instructors Julie Robertson, far left, and Dee Ann Benke, second from right, both deputy jailers, and Calloway County Jailer Ken Claud, center in back.

Inside this Issue:

‘There’s no book on this’	1-2
Spotlight on Reentry Staff	3-4
Kentucky Reentry Councils	5
Tips for Incarcerated Parents	6
Children of Incarcerated Parents	7-8
You Are Invited!	9
Resources	10

-INSIDE OUT DAD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We shared as much as you did,” Robertson said. “You really saw a change, though, as the weeks moved on. I’ve seen some of you come out of your shell, then several others would do the same.”

One inmate definitely out of that shell Tuesday was James Hornbuckle. Now 46, he is the father of several children and discussed how this class, being something new and different from other programs, made him strive for more as it continued.

“I thank you for allowing this to happen,” Hornbuckle began, addressing the dedication of the teachers. “Without your insight (as women), I don’t think this would’ve been as effective. You made it comfortable for me to ask questions and you made it where we could share these feelings we have and not have to deal with it alone in our cells.

“I didn’t know how selfish I was, and even though I knew (his children) were taken care of, myself and my selfishness was hurting them.

“There’s no book on this! I’ve been able to listen to (Benke and Robertson) with a different ear, and this is giving me a chance to mature as a man and a father.”

Inmate Corey Jones, father of two children, 8 and 7, emphasized a theme for the day.

“This has taught me about honesty, and one thing I can say with that in mind is that I want my children to depend on me the way I depend on them,” Jones said, quoting 1st Corinthians Chapter 13, Verse 11 of the Bible. “‘When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.’

“Guys, what gets us there is what is on the inside.”

“I think this is a very nice program and I want to compliment the jailer and his staff for this,” said Calloway County Judge/Executive Larry Elkins, who attended the ceremony with Calloway County Magistrate District 1 Eddie Clyde Hale. “These are the types of programs that can make a difference. I remember back to my days (with the Murray Police Department), something like this wasn’t available then, and it makes you wonder how things might’ve gone for some families if it had been.

“If you touch even half of these men, though we hope it will be that way for all of them, it’s done its job.”

Robertson said a requirement for the class was that each session be attended, and when a class was missed, regardless of the reason, it had to be made up. One inmate missed three of the courses due to court appearances; he made up every class with Benke doing 1-on-1 sessions with him to allow him to cut that deficit.

Claud also said that participation in the class also puts the inmates in position to put their skills to use quicker than scheduled. Time is trimmed from their sentences, meaning reuniting with their loved ones, getting the chance to prove themselves to their children, as well as have a chance to rebuild damaged relationships with their wives/significant others.

“You’d like that wouldn’t you? Chance to get out quicker?” Claud asked, receiving both strong responses of “Yes!” along with applause in return.



SPOTLIGHT ON REENTRY PROBATION AND PAROLE OFFICER:

ADAM WOFFORD, DISTRICT 1, PADUCAH

Mr. Adam Wofford graduated from Western Kentucky University with his Bachelor's in Political Science in May 2004. He started his career at the Warren County jail as a Deputy from 2005- 2008, until he accepted a position to work for the Warren County Drug Court in 2008. On July 16, 2009, Mr. Wofford started his service with Probation and Parole in the Kentucky Department of Corrections in the Bowling Green office (District 3). After graduating basic academy, Mr. Wofford was introduced to Kentucky's reentry efforts with programming in the state of Kentucky and started assisting/teaching the PORTAL class that was at that time being taught to all parolees, under the direction of District Supervisor Mark Stonex.

In October 2012, he transferred to the Paducah Probation and Parole office (District 1) under District Supervisor George Glass, in which he continued to assist/teach the PORTAL classes with Officer Goselin. In late 2013, PORTAL classes changed to the PORTAL New Direction and Mr. Wofford started teaching those classes on his own. During this time, Mr. Wofford has been trained in teaching a couple of additional reentry programs; 24/7 Dads and Thinking for a Change. With the district supervisors support and guidance, Mr. Wofford has been able to implement teaching 24/7 Dads and PORTAL New Direction in the Keeton Corrections Inc. (KCI) – Paducah Community Center halfway house (HWH) in which they graduated their first 24/7 Dads class last Spring and first Portal New Direction class last Fall. He also has taught a small group in the District office on 24/7 Dads, with Officer VanSickle.

Mr. Wofford's reentry efforts continued as he aids Corrections Program Administrator, Kerry Mears in assisting the Calloway County jail training their staff in PORTAL New Direction so that they may start their reentry efforts in teaching the class in their facility.

When asked, "What made you choose to work for the Kentucky Department of Corrections?" He responded with, "I am an Eagle Scout. I believe that is what prepared me for the job that I have undertaken. It aids in me giving back and helping a population that may not otherwise; have programming since many of them are not in an adult institution."



***Would you like to nominate someone for the spotlight? Email: Melissaj.moore@ky.gov**

**SPOTLIGHT ON REENTRY STAFF:**

STACY DORTCH, GREEN RIVER CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX (GRCC)

Ms. Stacy Dortch is a 1994 graduate of Murray State University with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She has also performed some graduate work through the University of Alabama. She started her career in January of 1995 as a Correctional Officer at the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex (WKCC) where she worked at various positions until she transferred in November 1995 to what was then known as the Department of Social Services working as a Family Services Worker. In June 1997 she was promoted to the position of Classification and Treatment Officer (CTO) at WKCC where she performed various duties until the world of Probation and Parole came calling in August of 2003 when she went to work as a P&P Officer. Stacy was introduced to the Green River Correctional Complex (GRCC) in January, 2005 when she was hired as a CTO. It was during this time that she became active in the Portal/New Direction Program and started teaching inmate classes. In March of 2005 she was again promoted to Correctional Unit Administrator I where she was given the assignment of reentry. Stacy became trained in Thinking for a Change (T4C), and continued to teach New Direction programming, which later was renamed to PORTAL New Direction (PND). In August of 2007 she was promoted to Correctional Unit Administrator II (CUA) and assigned to Programs/Reentry. Since 2010 Stacy has facilitated several different programs including Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) based programs and she has completed The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Thinking for a Change Advanced Practicum. Stacy has also supervised a male living unit and the GRCC "Death Row Dog" program.

Stacy is well-rounded in her field and currently assists in training correctional staff and probation/parole staff in the T4C program. When asked why she chose working for the Kentucky Department Of Corrections (KYDOC) she stated "I wanted to put into practice what I learned in college and try and make a difference. KYDOC seemed to be a perfect fit for my interests. Twenty years later, the job continues to be both challenging and rewarding" she continued, "a wise Warden once told me, you can't save them all. But if you can help just one, you have helped the world".

Prepared by: Deputy Warden, David Higgs—Operations/Programs



Kentucky Reentry Councils

Also, visit us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/kentuckyreentry>
<https://www.facebook.com/louisvillereentry>



TIPS FOR INCARCERATED PARENTS

Information provided from “*What About Me?*” by the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Divisions of Programs and Community Services Office of Transitional Services who has written a guide for parents when they go to prison.

Many of the men and women currently incarcerated are parents of children under the age of 18. It is estimated that 1.7 million children have a father in prison and 200,000 children have a mother in prison in the United States. Approximately ten million, or one in eight children, have had an incarcerated parent at some point of their lives. The link between generations is so strong, that half of all juveniles that are in custody had a father, mother, or other close relative who has been in jail or prison.

Little is known about what happens to children when their parents are incarcerated. Children of offenders have basic needs: a safe place to live and people to care for them in their parents’ absence, food, clothing, and medical care. Beyond these basic needs, children have many less tangible needs. When parents are arrested, or placed in jail or prison, their children are often scared, confused, and upset. Often people don’t talk about having a family member in prison because it is very personal information. Children, though, may have a lot of questions too.

Children need to be told the truth about their parents’ situation. They need contact with their other parent or a buddies parents: to have that relationship recognized and valued even under these circumstances. They need to be treated with respect, offered opportunity, and recognized as having potential.

When children are not in contact with their parent is a breeding ground for idealization, and when the parent is a big time criminal, they can turn them into legends.

Why should this information be of interest to you?

Research shows that inmates who stay in touch with their families are more likely to have a smoother transition back into society when released.

Unless determined by a family court judge, serving time in prison does not mean that you have lost your right to make decisions about the care of your children or that your relationships with your children has become less important. Parenting from prison isn’t easy. You will probably get frustrated and feel overwhelmed at times. Some family relationships may be strained. Sometimes it may feel like it is impossible to stay in touch with your children. All of these challenges are real, and must be overcome. It will require patience, creativity, and persistence on your part. It is possible to play an active role in your children’s lives. The major concerns for most incarcerated parents are:

1. Dealing with the emotions of being separated from their children
2. Making decisions regarding the placement and care of their children
3. Maintaining contact with their children during incarceration
4. Reuniting with their children once they are released from prison

Children of Incarcerated Parents: Telling the Children

It is a difficult decision to tell children that a family member, particularly a parent, is incarcerated. Parental shame or fears that your child will think less of the incarcerated family member can interfere with appropriate discussions. While it is ultimately a parent or caregiver's decision to inform the children, there are several issues that must be considered. Here are some hints:

If children are not given an answer or a plausible explanation, they may fantasize their own explanation to fill the void. Children may blame themselves and feel that they have contributed to the incarcerated parent being absent.

Children are also smart. While they can be convinced that their incarcerated parent or family member is in the hospital, working for the government, on vacation, or in school, the child may become distrustful or confused by the discrepancy between what they are told and what they experience. Additionally, it is better for a child to find out that a family member is in prison from a caregiver rather than in the school yard or in the media.

In telling a child that a family member is in prison, it is important to keep the explanation simple and age appropriate. *Generally speaking, a "keep it simple" explanation includes:*

- ◆ A declaration of the incarcerated parent or family member's love and care for the child;
- ◆ A statement that the incarceration is not related to any fault on the part of the child;
- ◆ That the incarceration is due to the incarcerated parent making a mistake that lead to incarceration;
- ◆ Some indication of the duration of the absence of the family member from the child;
- ◆ A description of any future contact between the incarcerated parent with the child by mail, by phone, or in visitation.

Consideration can be given to include the incarcerated family member during the explanation, if you or the courts decide that there will be parental contact inside an institution.

There needs to be preparation and time to answer your child's questions about prison, prison life, the crime, and the safety of the incarcerated parent.

Telling the Children continued from page 7:

It is better to say “I don’t know” and then find the correct answer for your child. Some children will not ask questions at the time of the explanation, but pose questions over the course of many days as they incorporate information and any feelings that they may experience.

Children may also need guidance in dealing with stigmatization and teasing that they may experience in the playground. If the child is told to not publicly share information that a parent is incarcerated, the child may need to give a plausible explanation to share with others. Children at school are aware and accepting of single parent families and non-custodial parents living in other communities. It may be enough to tell your child to share with others that the parents are separated. It may not be surprising that the responses and concerns of the children of incarcerated parents can bear striking similarities to the responses of the children of separating and divorced parents.

You as a parent or caregiver may need to be aware of any attitudes and behaviors that are passed to the children during the explanation. Prisons are not normal places to be and criminal behavior is not appropriate. The process of talking with children is to normalize their experience and feelings without normalizing prison or crime. It may be important to you to sort through feelings and the explanation that will use with a care professional.

There are some excellent print sources available to assist in telling the children about the incarceration of a family member. These include “*When Your Parent is in Jail*,” by Maureen Whirtbold, “*When a Parent is in Jail*,” by Stephanie St. Pierre, “*When Andy’s Father went to Prison*,” by Martha Hickman, and “*Two in Every 100*,” by Meg Chrisman.

Research has shown that children with an incarcerated parent are significantly more likely to become incarcerated themselves. An interruption of a potential cycle of second generation of criminal activity is necessary for effective crime prevention. Telling the children may start the process.

****This information is provided by the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Division of Programs and Community Services, Office of Transitional Services.****

YOU ARE INVITED:**BLUEGRASS FAMILIES
OF THE INCARCERATED****FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Families of the Incarcerated is a group of family members in the Lexington, Kentucky area with loved ones incarcerated, committed to providing support to one another and provide for a smoother transition for the families once their loved ones return home. They meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at American National University and welcomes all families who are seeking a place of love, support, and encouragement as they deal with having a member of their family in prison.

PLEASE RSVPTO: jamnorton@gmail.com, 859-338-9821 (Jim)

Upcoming 2016 Monthly Meetings/Topics:

February 17
Guy Hamilton-Smith, Paralegal, with the Episcopal Prison Ministry Commission
March 16
Mark Johnson, CEO, Behind Bars and Beyond
April 20
Rev. Aaron Mobley, Chaplain at North Point Training Center
May 18
Kerry Means, Department of Corrections, ReEntry Branch
June 15
Jim Lowe, HIP (Home Incarceration program), Department of Corrections

Bluegrass Families of the Incarcerated, American National University
2376 Sir Barton Way, Lexington, KY

**GREATER LOUISVILLE RE-ENTRY
COALITION OF FAMILY & FRIENDS
OF THE INCARCERATED**

ON THE 2ND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH THE GREATER LOUISVILLE REENTRY COALITION OF FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF THE INCARCERATED WILL MEET AT 6:30 PM AT:
NEW LEGACY, 1115 GARVIN PLACE, LOUISVILLE, KY

WWW.NEWLEGACYRC.ORG

UPCOMING DATES & TOPICS

JANUARY 14-TBD
FEBRUARY 11-TBD
MARCH 10-TBD
APRIL 14-KENTUCKY DOC Q & A
MAY 12-TBD
JUNE 9-TBD

THE GROUP INCLUDES FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN THE LOUISVILLE AND SURROUNDING AREA WITH LOVED ONES INCARCERATED, COMMITTED TO PROVIDING SUPPORT TO ONE ANOTHER AND PROVIDE FOR A SMOOTHER TRANSITION FOR THE FAMILIES ONCE THEIR LOVED ONES RETURN HOME.



THE GREATER LOUISVILLE AREA ENCOMPASSES THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES: JEFFERSON, BULLITT, SPENCER, SHELBY, HENRY, TRIMBLE, OLDHAM

WWW.KENTUCKYREENTRY.ORG
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LOUISVILLEENTRY
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/KENTUCKYFAMILIESOFTHEINCARCERATED

CONTACT: MELIBBA
MELIBBAAMOB@GMAIL.COM

NKY

Time: 7:00 PM

Catholic Charities
3629 Church Street
Covington, KY 41015

Contact:
Sr. Dolores Giblin
giblin@ndapandas.org



Northern Kentucky's

**Family & Friends
of the
Incarcerated**

Family & Friends of the Incarcerated is a group of family members in the Northern Kentucky area with loved ones incarcerated, committed to providing support to one another and provide for a smoother transition for the families once their loved ones return home.

They meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at Catholic Charities

Upcoming 2016 Dates

January 19	February 16
March 15	April 19
May 17	June 21
July 19	August 16

On **April 19, 2016 at 7:00 PM** with Guest Speaker Kerry Mears from the Reentry Branch of the Kentucky Department of Corrections for a Family Engagement Question & Answer session.

www.kentuckyreentry.org



www.facebook.com/NorthernKentuckyReentry/
www.facebook.com/KentuckyFamiliesoftheIncarcerated/

RESOURCES:

Success Built on Strengths

Free Counseling for Children, Teenagers, Adults, & Families in West Louisville

Cardinal Success Program @ Nia Mental Health Clinic

We offer individual & group therapy, family & couples therapy, and psychological testing.



We offer parental support.

We work with families.

We support individuals of all ages.



Program Director:
Dr. Eugene Foster

Clinical Coordinator:
Dr. Katy Hopkins

For more information or an appointment:
Cardinal Success Program @ Nia Mental Health Clinic
2900 West Broadway, Suite 320
Louisville, KY 40211
(502) 208-1631 / (502) 852-3888
nia.clinic@outlook.com

Graduate and doctoral students at the University of Louisville, College of Education and Human Development provide counseling and support services.



CARDINAL SUCCESS
PROGRAM

Nia Center